

25X1A [REDACTED] 21863-04
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10 JAN 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Replies to Questions on Reconnaissance as Indicated

Question 1. Is the 112A camera the best primary camera or would it be better to use the B model for first search?

Answer. The present vertical mode of operation of the 112A limits the coverage swath-width to 11.2 miles. The B configuration with its vertical swath of six miles, plus its oblique capability, useable up to 24 miles for PI and useable up to 70 miles for identification, provides a much better system for first search. The 112A should then be used against targets located by the B which require better resolution. The 112A provides about 1' resolution versus 2' to 3 1/2' for the B.

Additionally, the B camera provides a better product for PI since it is full stereo, whereas the present 112A provides only partial stereo effect through 10% overlap.

Question 2. What do USAF B-57's do in South Vietnam?

Answer. There are two USAF B-57's in South Vietnam. They are photo reconnaissance planes operating under the code name [REDACTED] 25X1A
[REDACTED] The coverage, of South Vietnam only, supplements that obtained by [REDACTED] (P-401's). Thirteen to fifteen B-57 missions per month are flown at about 5000' altitude. Photo equipment:

36" focal length forward firing
12" focal length split vertical
3" focal length panoramic

The film is processed and exploited in Saigon. Summaries of the mission results are received by CIA, NFIC and NSC.

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Question 3. Who conducts photography and how in the Berlin Corridor?

Answer. USAF under EUCOM and JEC operates three photo reconnaissance programs in all three Berlin Corridors. About 100 missions per month are flown at altitudes between 3,000 and 10,000 feet. These are [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Flight plans are adhered to whether or not the weather is suitable for photography.

Code names, planes and photo equipment:

25X1A [REDACTED] two T-29's (Convairs) 24" focal length tan, 6" focal length vertical, 8" focal length horizon to horizon.

25X1A [REDACTED] one KC-97; 33" focal length horizon to horizon.

25X1A [REDACTED] two C-130's; 100" focal length oblique.

Film from all missions is processed and readout at Wiesbaden. Summaries and film are received by NPIC and DOD.

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Question 4.

Part a. What has been done with Laos-Cambodia-Vietnam photography?

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Answer. Film from the two [REDACTED] was processed at [REDACTED] and delivered to NPIC for readout. Immediate photo interpretation reports (IPIRs) were sent electrically from NPIC on 2 and 4 January to normal recipients, including MACV and [REDACTED]

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In addition, photography from the two missions was duplicated at Westover Lab and 11 crates of film, consisting of one duplicate negative and one duplicate positive, left Kennedy International Airport by special courier at 1700 on 3 January, scheduled to arrive at the Second Air Division, Saigon, at 1800 Washington time, 3 January. The Second Air Division serves as MACV's TALENT control center and photo interpretation staff.

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At the request of MACV, NPIC is preparing two enlargements of all MACV targets identified in the readouts and enlargements of any other significant items for forwarding to MACV. MACV will also request additional enlargements if desired after analysis of the IPIRs.

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Procedures for the handling of material from the third mission flown on 7 January will be handled in the same manner, with the possible exception that a special courier may not be necessary depending on the results of the initial readout.

Part b. What is the channel to MACV and others?

Answer. The channel to MACV for photography on these missions is direct from the Vestover processing center to the Second Air Division, Saigon. This arrangement was made through COMUS in order to expedite the film to MACV. MACV's channel for requesting further photography is through CINCPAC to DIA.

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has been queried as to his specific needs for photography in addition to that sent to the Second Air Division. He has deferred an answer until he confers with an NPIC representative in the area.

Other recipients will receive the film by normal distribution through TALENT channels.

Part c. What foreigners have seen or will see it?

Answer. The IPIRs, containing selected prints of the photography, have been released on a ROPURN basis.

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Complete sets of the film, however, such as that sent direct to MACV, are not releasable to foreigners.

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In accordance with the decision of USIB on 3 January 1964, information, but not the photography, from missions over this area may be made available to the South Vietnamese for operational purposes within the borders of South Vietnam. Such information will not be attributable to the source.

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W. S. CLINE
Deputy Director (Intelligence)



ALBERT D. WHELAN
Deputy Director
(Science & Technology)

- 1,2 - DCI
- 3 - DD/S&T
- 4 - DD/I
- 5 - [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
- 6 - COS
- 7 - COS
- 8 - AD/OSA
- 9 - [REDACTED] 25X1A
- 10 - [REDACTED]
- 11 - [REDACTED]

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